

Ticket to Work/Work Incentives Improvement Act
Medicaid Infrastructure Grant
Advisory Group

Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2004

The Ticket to Work/Work Incentives Improvement Act Medicaid Infrastructure Grant Advisory Group Meeting was called to order on January 28, 2004 by Co-chair Alyce Thomas at 10:50 AM at Northern Nevada Adult Mental Health Services.

Members in Attendance:

Nina Davenport-National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Tracey DuPree-Nevada State Welfare Division
Robert "Red" Foster-General Public Northern Nevada
Paul Gowins-Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living
Terry Hardy-General Public Northern Nevada via conference phone
William Heavilin-Nevada Disability and Law Center
Robin Renshaw- Nevada Parents Encouraging Parents/South
Robert Simola-Ormsby ARC
Alyce Thomas-Nevada Division of Mental Health & Development Services
Jessie Harris-General Public Southern Nevada
Anthony "Tony" Amos-General Public Southern Nevada

Members Not in Attendance:

Kimberli Vare-Skill Builders of Nevada
Lisa Erquiaga-Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living

Staff:

Connie Anderson, Chief of Medicaid and Nevada Check Up Services
Harry Snoek, Social Services Program Specialist III TWWIA
Lori Inera, Social Services Program Specialist II TWWIA
Earline Robertson, Services Program Specialist II TWWIA
Jeanne Schrauth, Administrative Assistant II TWWIA

Others Present:

Bonnie Dixon
Greg St. Aott

Others Present Continued:

Helen My
Loretta Wilson
Crystal Swann
Karen Yates
Scott Mervine

I. Roll Call

Roll was called and a quorum was present.

II. Introduce New Staff

Earline Robertson was introduced. She gave a brief background sketch of her work experience to the Advisory Group.

III. Overview of the MAABD Application/Eligibility Process

The Overview of the MAABD application/eligibility process to be presented by Naomi Lewis was postponed and a new date will be set for the presentation.

IV. Approval of November Meeting Minutes

November's Meeting Minutes were approved as presented.

V. HIWA-Draft Medicaid Operations Manual Chapter Review and Discussion

Prior to the policy discussion Alyce passed out a list of acronyms for the Group to use in conjunction with the policy document.

Connie began the discussion with an explanation of the way the chapter will look when completed. The sections dealing with eligibility and income will go to the NSWDC Eligibility Manual where these sections belong. Connie assured the Advisory Group that the program would get a copy of Welfare's completed document. Copies of the document would be made and passed on to the Advisory Group once HIWA staff receives the NSWDC document.

Harry stated the reason the eligibility criteria and resource criteria are here is so that the NSWDC will be able to use the criteria recommended by the Advisory Group and approved by DHCFP Administration. Our section will be in the DHCFP Medicaid Operations Manual; things such as the

introduction, why we are doing this program, under what authority this program is being operated and the general overview of the program without eligibility specific information being included.

The review was conducted by taking one section of the document at a time.

Sections 400, 401 were reviewed without comment.

Section 402: Section 402.2's definition had the word "coverage" spelled incorrectly.

Section 402.20 Bill requested that the statement "as determined by the Social Security Administration" be added. There was discussion on section 402.20 regarding the definition of employment. A handout developed by John Alexander was shown by Connie Anderson which reviewed some of the states with existing Buy-in programs. Copies of the document were promised to be mailed to the Advisory Group for review.

Section 402.22 There was discussion regarding unearned income (in-kind support) and the individual. Bill requested that this definition be made clearer as the HIWA program pertains to the individual.

Section 403 was discussed next. Section 403.1 was reviewed. A suggestion was made to list the Federal Act # next to the age section to show the source of the age limitations. Paul requested and received clarification of non-concurrent Receipt of Assistance (section 403.1d).

Section 403.2 a) Comments were made by the Advisory Group that it would be nice to see if services covered in the waiver programs could be included in the HIWA program.

Section 403.2e Reporting Requirements: It was felt that the word immediately was too fluid and open to interpretation by the participant. It was suggested that as defined by standard Medicaid policy might be better. No other comments were made or questions asked regarding section 403.2.

Section 403.3 No comments.

Section 403.4 It was recommended that the unearned income standard be raised to 799.00 with a 5% increase each year.

Section 403.4-1b) Employment Related Transportation Expense: The Advisory Group requested that the possibility of a percentage of vehicle insurance and registration fees be included in the allowable Transportation Expense.

Section 403.4-4b) Under Education Expenses The Advisory Group requested that tutoring expenses be listed.

Section 403.4 5a) Service Animal Expense that the base standard deductions be rounded up to \$50.00. All other sections of 403.4 the Group was satisfied with language as presented.

Section 403.5 No changes recommended

Section 403.6 Connie Anderson requested a section added to address the treatment of monetary gifts which can be significant unearned income.

Section 403.7 No changes recommended

Section 403.8 No changes recommended

Section 404 Referred to Medicaid Services Chapter Manual Chapter 3100.

VI. Old Business

a. Budgets from calendar years 2001 and 2002

Harry spoke to the Advisory Group regarding their request to see 2001 and 2002 TWWIA budgets. He is unable at this time to allocate the time to find or research the budgets of the past years. He felt that possibly after the program is up and running there might be the time to research it. Connie Anderson stated she has advised Harry program implementation is the priority and past budgets will need to wait.

V. New Business-none

VI. Group Report

a. Mental Health Consumers Conference Committee

Alyce updated the Advisory Group on the meeting of the Mental Health Consumers Conference Committee. She stated that she hoped that HIWA program would have a booth as well as Harry speaking during the conference.

b. Meeting with Governor's staff

Paul Gowins has been unable to set up a contact in the Governor's office. He stated he would work harder on this and have more to report at the February meeting.

c. Health and Information Fair

Nina Davenport reminded the Advisory Group of the Health and Information Fair that is held in March. Last year the program had a booth there that was staffed by Mary Jackson.

VII. Public Comment

Bonnie Dixon commented through out the meeting on various aspects of the written Policy being reviewed.

VIII. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 PM